

Hudson Valley Writers Guild Newsletter

August 15, 2008

Member Announcements: Ellen Brady, Diane Cameron, Denie Whalen, Mimi Moriarty, Marni Gillard, Delmar Writers Peer Writing Group

Area Announcements: Arts Center Writing Program, Blog Talk Radio, Frequency North at St. Rose

Member Announcements:

Here are some excellent opportunities for workshops and classes by members of the HVWG. Plan for late summer and fall now – get these dates on the calendar!

* Ellen Brady: Writing Workshop at the Sand Lake Center for the Arts

Come join in on Sunday, September 14, 2008 for the first of a regular series of workshops to be held at the Sand Lake Center for the Arts at 2880 Route 43 in Averill Park, NY. The workshop will run from 1 PM until 4 PM. The topic for this workshop is "Writing Short Essays." You do not need to be an experienced writer to participate; the workshop is designed for all skill levels. The only prerequisite is to want to have fun with words and ideas and to meet other people who share your interest in writing.

Please bring a writing instrument and notebook or writing paper. All other materials including general information on writing short essays and a list of possible topics will be provided. You may also wish to choose your own topic to explore and share with the group. The workshop will be lead by Ellen Brady. Space is limited, so register early. If any members are interested in assisting Ellen with any details, including helping Ellen facilitate the workshop, please contact her as indicated below.

The Sand Lake Arts Center is also inviting interested parties to form a peer writers group to meet once a month on a Tuesday or Thursday evening from 6:30 until 8:30 pm. Anyone interested in joining should contact Ellen Brady through the information below.

Contact Ellen Brady via phone at 518-674-0625, or via E-mail: beepone@sbcglobal.net

If you need special arrangements, please call Ellen.

* Diane Cameron: Writing for Caregivers

Thursday, September 18, 2008, 12-2 p.m.

Boscov's at Colonie Center

Central Avenue and Wolf Road, Colonie

Are you a caregiver? This fun two-hour workshop will help you tell your own story or the story of the person you care for. Your work may be intended for publication or as a gift to your family. You will learn about keeping a journal, starting a memoir, and using fiction and poetry in your work. The class will also explore writing as a therapeutic and stress-relieving tool. And you will learn how to make time to write when you are so very busy. This is for those who have never written and those with some experience.

The class is free, but registration is required. Please call Boscov's at (518) 438-6600 or visit the store to register. For more information about the workshop, please call Community Caregivers at (518) 456-2898.

* Poetry for Caregivers (facilitated by Mimi Moriarty)

Caregivers might also be interested in a related program: Poetry for Caregivers, also sponsored by Community Caregivers. This program will be held on Monday evening, September 15 from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Bethlehem Public Library.

Caregivers have a very special task – the giving of self for the betterment of another. This is often done with joy and received with gratitude. Sometimes these tasks can wear down the body and the spirit. Writing poetry can help the caregiver express the love, concern and gratitude they feel, as well as the frustration, anger, exhaustion, humor despair or resignation. Whatever situation you are in, whatever kind of caregiving (spouse, parent, sibling, child, friend, short-term, long-term) writing poetry is a wonderful outlet. In this workshop you will read poetry written by caregivers and about caregiving, and you will learn writing exercises to begin or improve your poetry-writing skills. Bring a pen and notebook. There is no cost. Registration is through Community Caregivers at (518) 456-2898.

* Denie Whalen: Expressive Arts Opportunities

Introductory Expressive Arts Workshop,
Thursday, Aug. 21, 6 to 9 p.m.

Our final free, introductory workshop of the summer is right around the corner. Join us to learn about the life-changing methods of

expressive arts as embodied in the Expressive Arts training program at NYEA, now in partnership with the College of Saint Rose. We'll make some art together using the low skill/high sensitivity approach of expressive arts, host a question-and-answer session about the program and share some simple snacks and drinks in case you didn't have time for supper.

To register: call the Studio at (518) 434-2412 or Denie at (518) 768-2708.

Training program begins September 2008.

New students are now entering our Expressive Arts training program.

It's not too late to join them! For more information, visit our website at <http://www.newyorkexpressivearts.com>, or call the Studio at (518) 434-2412 to make an appointment for an interview or just to have a chat with Denie. If you've ever thought about enrolling for our program, the time is now!

* Mimi Moriarty: Journal Writing – From Start to Finish

Tuesdays, October 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Pastoral Center, 40 North Main Avenue, Albany

\$50.00 for the course

If you keep a journal, or want to learn the principles of journal writing, this workshop is for you. If you want to develop your writing from personal journal-keeping to a finished product – poetry memoir, personal essay or fiction – this class is also for you. Bring a notebook, a pen, and your imagination. Register by calling the Consultation Center at 518-489-4431.

* Marni Gillard: Storytelling – Putting Our Difficult and Delightful

Memories to Work in the World

Mondays, October 6, 20 and 27 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Pastoral Center, 40 North Main Avenue, Albany

\$25.00 (Payment after 9/29: \$30.00)

In this three-part class, we'll look at the value of everyday storytelling and how we can use it at family gatherings, in our workplaces, and in our prayer lives. EVERYONE has stories to tell. It's not just about performing. Storytelling is savoring the past or allowing a mythical tale to become a teacher. Funny or serious, stories help us make sense of our place in the world. Register by calling the Consultation Center at 518-489-4431.

* Delmar Writers Peer Writing Group

Sunday, September 21, 2008
2:00 pm
Bethlehem Public Library

The Delmar Writers' Group will be presenting their work in poetry, fiction, personal essay and more! Refreshments will be served and time reserved for questions and answers. Several Hudson Valley Writers Guild members are represented in this peer group!

Area Announcements:

* Arts Center Writing Program

Arts Center to launch new writing program

The Memoir Project will feature classes, workshops and readings

TROY, NY—Things are about to get personal at The Arts Center of the Capital Region, with the launch next month of a far-reaching new writing program at the Troy institution.

Dubbed The Memoir Project and growing out of a series of meetings with area writers commenced last Spring, the new program will include a wide range of classes, workshops, readings and other presentations throughout the year—all grounded in the ways writers mine personal experience to dig up nuggets of universal truth.

The Memoir Project has its origins in a perennially sold-out class that has been an Arts Center staple for more than a decade—"Writing What You Know," a personal essay class taught by author Marion Roach Smith—according to Amy Williams, president of the multi-arts center.

"We've always known remarkable things were happening in Marion's classes. A lot of people come into class as beginning writers and leave as published authors," Williams said. "So, we began asking writers, students and teachers what we could do to build on that and make The Arts Center a resource for even more writers and readers."

The answer they got was that more and more writers (and aspiring writers) are seeking the skills and techniques to tell their own stories, and more and more readers are eager to take in those personal accounts, she said.

To address both audiences, The Memoir Project includes a dozen new classes beginning next month and spanning such writing genres as poetry, essay, travel writing, playwriting, and more, all filtered through a memoirist's

sensibilities. It will also include a series of readings and author appearances geared to both readers and writers seeking insight into the methods of such masterful memoirists as Da Chen ("Colors of the Mountain") and Laura Shaine Cunningham ("A Place in the Country"); Da Chen will read at The Arts Center on Sept. 22, and Cunningham's presentation is set for Oct. 20.

The Fall reading series focuses on poetry the following month, with a reading by RPI professor Julie Gutman on Nov. 17, and will feature playwright Sandi Dollinger on Dec. 15.

All of the readings will take place at The Arts Center, 265 River Street in Troy, and are free and open to the public.

For complete details about The Memoir Project, including upcoming classes for writers of all levels, call The Arts Center at (518) 273-0552 ext. 231 or visit online at <http://www.artscenteronline.org>

* Blog Talk Radio

Woodstock, N.Y.—Both seasoned and aspiring writers now have easy access to the advice of a longtime book editor, on a new web-based call in show hosted by longtime editor and book doctor Sandi Gelles-Cole.

"Ask the Book Doctor" can be heard live at 3 p.m. Eastern time each Thursday, or downloaded anytime—can be found at <http://www.blogtalkradio.com>.

The 15-minute program is devoted to answering writers' questions about the process of writing and publishing either a fiction or nonfiction book. Answering both live calls (347-826-7306) and inquiries posted on her blog (<http://www.thebookdoctorisin.blogspot.com>), the host deals with a wide range of writing and publishing topics, from plotting to characterization and more.

Contact: Sandi Gelles-Cole

Gelles-Cole Literary Enterprises

P.O. Box 341

Woodstock, NY 12498

sandigc@aol.com

<http://www.literaryenterprises.com>

* Frequency North at St. Rose

"FREQUENCY NORTH" WRITERS SERIES AT SAINT ROSE BACK FOR FOURTH SEASON

"Frequency North," the visiting writers reading series at The College of Saint Rose, returns for its fourth season with another aggressively eclectic mix of award-winning poets, authors, essayists, a MacArthur Award "genius" and one satirical cartoonist.

The 2008–09 series kicks off Thursday, September 25, with David Rees, creator of the Internet phenom "Get Your War On," and playwright, writer and sometime performer Rachel Shukert. Saint Rose writing faculty get into the act in October for a one-time event, with readings by authors Daniel Nester, William Patrick, Kenneth Krauss, Hollis Seamon, Gary McLouth, Rone Shavers and Barbara Louise Ungar. Award-winning author, poet and Troy native Alice Fulton follows in November. March will bring Taylor Mali, a former teacher who uses his slam poetry to turn people to the teaching profession. The series concludes in April with an evening of poetry read by Marilyn Nelson, former Poet Laureate of Connecticut, and Deborah Ager.

"This year's lineup is special because all of these authors have been on my dream list for years," said Daniel Nester, assistant professor of English and creator of the Frequency North series. "They're funny, riveting, thought-provoking, entertaining, bombastic, spell-binding and great reminders of the importance of literature in our lives. They will all rock."

The complete Frequency North schedule follows. All readings are free and open to the public. For more information, visit the series' website at <http://www.FrequencyNorth.com>.

- Thursday, September 25, 2008, 7:30 p.m.: David Rees and Rachel Shukert

Events and Athletics Center, Second Floor, 420 Western Ave., Albany

- Thursday, October 16, 2008, 7:30 p.m.: Saint Rose Faculty Reading

Auditorium, Saint Joseph Hall, 985 Madison Ave., Albany

- Wednesday, November 12, 2008, 7:30 p.m.: Alice Fulton

Events and Athletics Center, Second Floor, 420 Western Ave., Albany

- Thursday, March 26, 2009, 7:30 p.m.: Taylor Mali

Events and Athletics Center, Second Floor, 420 Western Ave., Albany

- Thursday, April 23, 2009, 7:30 p.m.: Marilyn Nelson and Deborah Ager

Events and Athletics Center, Second Floor, 420 Western Ave., Albany

To view this announcement online, go to <http://www.strose.edu/news>.

The College of Saint Rose Experts Directory is available online at <http://www.strose.edu/experts>

The Hudson Valley Writers Guild offers space in its newsletter for submission and program opportunities, but does not endorse any programs or publications that are not offered through the Guild.